

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for supplying drinking water comprising:
  - a container in which drinking water such as natural water or tap water is stored and which is arranged detachably;
  - a water cooler which is able to cool drinking water guided from said container;
  - a sterilizer which is installed in said water cooler and is able to sterilize drinking water in the water cooler;
  - a cold water valve for controlling supplying operation and stopping operation for drinking water in said water cooler;
  - a container detecting means which is able to detect whether or not said container has been detached; and
  - a control means which is able to control to drive said sterilizer over a predetermined period when said container detecting means has detected a state in which said container has been detached.
2. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 1, wherein:
  - said water cooler has a cold water tank unit in which drinking water is stored.
3. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 1, further comprising:
  - a water heater which is arranged in parallel with said water cooler relative to said container and is able to heat drinking water guided from the container, and
  - a hot water valve for controlling supplying operation and stopping operation for drinking water in said water heater.
4. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 2, further comprising:
  - a water heater which is arranged in parallel with said water cooler

relative to said container and is able to heat drinking water guided from the container, and

a hot water valve for controlling supplying operation and stopping operation for drinking water in said water heater.

5. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 3, further comprising:

a common pipe for guiding drinking water in said container, a cold water pipe for guiding drinking water in the common pipe to said water cooler, and

a hot water pipe for guiding drinking water in the common pipe to said water heater.

6. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 4, further comprising:

a common pipe for guiding drinking water in said container, a cold water pipe for guiding drinking water in the common pipe to said water cooler, and

a hot water pipe for guiding drinking water in the common pipe to said water heater.

7. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 3, wherein:

said water heater has a hot water tank unit in which drinking water is stored.

8. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 4, wherein:

said water heater has a hot water tank unit in which drinking water is stored.

9. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 5, wherein:

said water heater has a hot water tank unit in which drinking

water is stored.

10. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 6, wherein:

said water heater has a hot water tank unit in which drinking water is stored.

11. An apparatus for supplying drinking water comprising:

a container in which drinking water such as natural water or tap water is stored and which is arranged detachably;

a reserve tank which is able to store drinking water guided from said container;

a water cooler which is able to cool drinking water guided from said reserve tank;

a sterilizer which is installed in said reserve tank and is able to sterilize drinking water in the reserve tank;

a cold water valve for controlling supplying operation and stopping operation for drinking water in said water cooler;

a container detecting means which is able to detect whether or not said container has been detached; and

a control means which is able to control to drive said sterilizer over a predetermined period when said container detecting means has detected a state in which said container has been detached.

12. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 11, wherein:

said water cooler has a cold water tank unit in which drinking water is stored.

13. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 11, further comprising:

a water heater which is arranged in parallel with said water cooler relative to said reserve tank and is able to heat drinking water guided

from the reserve tank, and

a hot water valve for controlling supplying operation and stopping operation for drinking water in said water heater.

14. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 12, further comprising:

a water heater which is arranged in parallel with said water cooler relative to said reserve tank and is able to heat drinking water guided from the reserve tank, and

a hot water valve for controlling supplying operation and stopping operation for drinking water in said water heater.

15. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 13, further comprising:

a common pipe for guiding drinking water in said reserve tank, a cold water pipe for guiding drinking water in the common pipe to said water cooler, and

a hot water pipe for guiding drinking water in the common pipe to said water heater.

16. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 14, further comprising:

a common pipe for guiding drinking water in said reserve tank, a cold water pipe for guiding drinking water in the common pipe to said water cooler, and

a hot water pipe which guides drinking water in the common pipe to said water heater.

17. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 13, wherein:

said water heater has a hot water tank unit in which drinking water is stored.

18. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim

14, wherein:

said water heater has a hot water tank unit in which drinking water is stored.

19. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 15, wherein:

said water heater has a hot water tank unit in which drinking water is stored.

20. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 16, wherein:

said water heater has a hot water tank unit in which drinking water is stored.

21. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 1, further comprising, downstream from said water cooler:

a bacteria remover which is able to remove bacteria.

22. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 11, further comprising, downstream from said water cooler:

a bacteria remover which is able to remove bacteria.

23. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 21, wherein:

said bacteria remover is a filter which is able to catch bacteria or some other sterilizer which is able to kill bacteria.

24. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 22, wherein:

said bacteria remover is a filter which is able to catch bacteria or some other sterilizer which is able to kill bacteria.

25. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 1, wherein:

said sterilizer is any one of an ultraviolet ray sterilizer, an ultraviolet ray emitting diode sterilizer and an ultraviolet ray pulse

light.

26. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 11, wherein:

said sterilizer is any one of an ultraviolet ray sterilizer, an ultraviolet ray emitting diode sterilizer and an ultraviolet ray pulse light.

27. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 23, wherein:

said filter is any one of a hollow-fiber filter, a membrane filter and a depth filter or a combination thereof.

28. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 24, wherein:

said filter is any one of a hollow-fiber filter, a membrane filter and a depth filter or a combination thereof.

29. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 1, further comprising:

a sterilization time setting means which is able to set the drive time for said sterilizer, wherein said control means so effects control as to drive the sterilizer at the time set by the sterilization time setting means.

30. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 11, further comprising:

a sterilization time setting means which is able to set the drive time for said sterilizer, wherein said control means so effects control as to drive the sterilizer at the time set by the sterilization time setting means.

31. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 1, further comprising:

a sterilization interval setting means which is able to set the

drive time intervals of said sterilizer, wherein said control means so effects control as to drive the sterilizer at the intervals set by the sterilization interval setting means.

32. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 11, further comprising:

a sterilization interval setting means which is able to set the drive time intervals of said sterilizer, wherein said control means so effects control as to drive the sterilizer at the intervals set by the sterilization interval setting means.